

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A switch device for use by an operator and connected to an actuator, for enabling the actuator to be driven when an ID code transmitted from a transponder of a portable device matches a predetermined ID code of a vehicle controller, the switch device comprising:

an operation switch operated by the operator, ~~for~~ driving the actuator;

a decorative member arranged to surround the operation switch, the decorative member including an exposed portion having an ornamental surface that is furnished with decorative plating; and

a communication means arranged adjacent to the decorative member, ~~for~~ transmitting a transponder-driving radio wave that causes the transponder to generate electromotive force used to transmit the ID code, wherein the decorative member includes a transmittable area for transmitting the transponder-driving radio wave, the transmittable area being formed in a part of the decorative member excluding the exposed portion.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the communication means includes a coil antenna.

4. (Original) The switch device according to claim 3, wherein the coil antenna and the operation switch are arranged so that an axis of the coil antenna and an axis of the operation switch substantially coincide with each other.

5. (Original) The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the decorative member is attached to the operation switch in a rotatable manner so that the transmittable area is movable to a position corresponding to the communication means.

6. (Currently amended) The switch device according to claim 5, further comprising:
a detection switch, ~~for~~ detecting that the transmittable area has moved to the position corresponding to the communication means, wherein the communication means transmits the transponder-driving radio wave based on the movement of the transmittable area detected by the detection switch.

7. (Currently amended) A switch device for use by an operator and connected to an actuator, for enabling the actuator to be driven when an ID code transmitted from a transponder of a portable device matches a predetermined ID code of a vehicle controller, the switch device comprising:

an operation switch operated by the operator, ~~for~~ driving the actuator, the operation switch including an operation button and a case;

a coil antenna wound around the case, for transmitting a transponder-driving radio wave that causes the transponder to generate electromotive force used to transmit the ID code; and

a decorative member attached to the case to surround the operation button and the coil antenna, the decorative member including an exposed portion having an ornamental surface that is furnished with decorative plating, wherein the decorative member includes a transmittable area for transmitting the transponder-driving radio wave, the transmittable area being formed in a part of the decorative member that excludes the exposed portion and that corresponds to an outer side and an inner side of the coil antenna.

8. (Currently amended) A switch device for use by an operator and connected to an actuator, for enabling the actuator to be driven when an ID code transmitted from a transponder of a portable device matches a predetermined ID code of a vehicle controller, the switch device comprising:

an operation switch operated by the operator, for driving the actuator;

a decorative member arranged to surround the operation switch, the decorative member including an exposed portion having an ornamental surface that is furnished with decorative plating;

a communication means arranged adjacent to the decorative member, for transmitting a transponder-driving radio wave that causes the transponder to generate electromotive force used to transmit the ID code; and

a ferromagnetic body, arranged between the communication means and the decorative member, for amplifying the transponder-driving radio wave and preventing the generation of an eddy current in said decorative member.

9. (Original) The switch device according to claim 8, wherein the communication means has an inner circumferential surface, and the ferromagnetic body is arranged along the inner circumferential surface of the communication means.

10. (Original) The switch device according to claim 8, wherein the ferromagnetic body is an amorphous magnetic body or a ferrite.

11. (Original) The switch device according to claim 8, wherein the communication means includes a coil antenna.

12. (Original) The switch device according to claim 11, wherein the coil antenna and the operation switch are arranged so that an axis of the coil antenna and an axis of the operation switch substantially coincide with each other.

13. (Currently amended) A switch device for use by an operator and connected to an actuator, for enabling the actuator to be driven when an ID code transmitted from a transponder

of a portable device matches a predetermined ID code of a vehicle controller, the switch device comprising:

an operation switch operated by the operator, ~~for~~ driving the actuator;

a decorative member arranged to surround the operation switch, the decorative member including an exposed portion having an ornamental surface that is furnished with decorative plating; and

a communication means spaced from the decorative member, ~~for~~ transmitting a transponder-driving radio wave that causes the transponder to generate electromotive force used to transmit the ID code, the communication means including a ferromagnetic core, for amplifying the transponder-driving radio wave and preventing the generation of an eddy current in said decorative member, and a coil wound around the core.

14. (Original) The switch device according to claim 13, further comprising:

a case to which the decorative member is attached and in which the communication means is arranged.

15. (Original) The switch device according to claim 13, wherein the communication means and the operation switch are arranged so that an axis of the communication means and an axis of the operation switch substantially coincide with each other.

16. (Original) The switch device according to claim 13, wherein the core is made of an amorphous magnetic body or ferrite.

17. (Currently amended) A switch device for use by an operator and connected to an actuator, for enabling the actuator to be driven when an ID code transmitted from a transponder of a portable device matches a predetermined ID code of a vehicle controller, the switch device comprising:

an operation switch operated by the operator, ~~for~~ driving the actuator;

a decorative member arranged to surround the operation switch; and

a communication means arranged adjacent to the decorative member, ~~for~~ transmitting a transponder-driving radio wave that causes the transponder to generate electromotive force used to transmit the ID code, wherein the decorative member is separable from the communication means to ensure formation of a magnetic path for the transponder-driving radio wave near the operation switch.

18. (Original) The switch device according to claim 17, wherein the decorative member is removably attached to the operation switch.

19. (Original) The switch device according to claim 17, wherein the decorative member is pressible into the operation switch.

20. (Currently amended) The switch device according to claim 17, further comprising:
a detection switch₁ for detecting that the decorative member is separated from the communication means at a position ensuring the formation of the magnetic path for the transponder-driving radio wave near the operation switch, wherein the communication means transmits the transponder-driving radio wave based on the separation of the decorative member detected by the detection switch.

21. (Original) The switch device according to claim 17, wherein the communication means includes a coil antenna.

22. (Original) The switch device according to claim 21, wherein the coil antenna and the operation switch are arranged so that an axis of the coil antenna and an axis of the operation switch substantially coincide with each other.

23. (Currently amended) A switch device for use by an operator and connected to an actuator, for enabling the actuator to be driven when an ID code transmitted from a transponder of a portable device matches a predetermined ID code of a vehicle controller, the switch device comprising:

an operation switch operated by the operator₁ for driving the actuator, the operation switch including an operation button and a case;

a coil antenna wound around the case, for transmitting a transponder-driving radio wave that causes the transponder to generate electromotive force used to transmit the ID code;

a decorative member removably attached to the case to surround the operation button and the coil antenna; and

a detection switch, for detecting that the decorative member has been removed from the case, wherein the coil antenna transmits the transponder-driving radio wave based on the removal of the decorative member detected by the detection switch.